

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1658

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19887

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, GV

SUBJECT: FRENCH POLICY ON GUINEA

1. QUAI AFRICAN DIRECTOR REBEYROL DISCUSSED FRENCH POLICY ON GUINEA WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR TO GUINEA TODMAN AUGUST 19. REBEYROL CONFIRMED REPORTS TODMAN HAD PICKED UP IN CONAKRY TO EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD RECENTLY DECIDED TO SPEED PAYMENT OF VETERAN ALLOTMENTS TO GUINEANS WHO ARE FORMER FRENCH MILITARY PERSONNEL. SINCE THIS WAS GUINEA'S SOLE DEMAND OF GOF, REBEYROL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SEKOU TOURE WOULD DECIDE TO LIBERATE FRENCH PRISONERS IN GUINEA. REBEYROL SAID GOF SOLE DEMAND OF GUINEA IS LIBERATION OF ALL 18 PRISONERS, BUT HE ADMITTED TOURE WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO APPROVE LIBERATION OF SMALLER NUMBER, AT LEAST INITIALLY. HE SAID FRANCE WOULD NOT AGREE TO PUBLIC STATEMENT SUCH AS PRECEDED LIBERATION OF WEST GERMAN PRISONERS, SINCE THIS WOULD BE CONCESSION OF GUILT. HE CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDED POSSIBILITY OF FRANCE EVER REPATRIATING ANY GUINEAN EXILES AGAINST THEIR WISHES.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: SIGNIFICANTLY, IT WAS GISCARD HIMSELF WHO ADOPTED CONCILIATORY POLICY ON VETERAN
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PAYMENTS, WITHOUT WAITING FOR GUINEA TO MAKE FIRST

GESTURE. REBEYROL BELIEVES SEKOU TOURE'S "EMOTIONAL"
ATTITUDE TOWARD FRANCE PRECLUDES ANY PERMANENT RECON-
CILIATION, AND THEREFORE INSISTS THAT END OF GAULISM
DOES NOT MEAN DAWN OF NEW ERA IN GOF-GOG RELATIONS.
HE CONCEDES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DEPENDS ON GISCARD'S
DECISIONS. HENCE, QUAI'S BASIC CONSERVATISM MAY BE
OVERRULED BY LIBERAL NEW BROOM IN THE ELYSEE.
STONE

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